

BLESSED OLGA, PRINCESS OF RUSSIA

The God-wise Olga entered into history as a great builder of the civil life and culture of Kievan Rus. Her aim was the well-being and improvement of the civil and domestic manner of life for her subjects. Having consolidated the inner strengthening of the might of the Kiev great-princely throne, thereby weakening the influence of the hodge-podge of petty local princes in Rus, Olga centralized the whole of state rule with the help of the system of “pogosti” (administrative trade centers). In the year 946, she went with her son and retinue through the land, “imposing tribute and taxes,” noting the villages, inns, and hunting places, liable for inclusion in the Kiev great-princely holdings. The pogosti, as financial-administrative and law-court centers, represented sturdy props of great-princely power. Olga’s system became an important network of the ethnic and cultural unification of the nation.

Princess Olga exerted much effort to fortify the defensive might of the land. The cities were built up and strengthened. Two-thirds of the gathered tribute were for the use of the Kiev city-council, and the remaining third went for building fortifications. Heroic outposts guarded the peaceful fields of the Kievans from the peoples of the Wild Plains. Foreigners hastened to the cities with merchandise and craftwares. Swedes, Danes and Germans all eagerly entered as mercenaries into the Russian army. The foreign connections of Kiev spread.

Even more urgent for the princess was the fundamental transformation of the religious life of Rus. In her heart, Olga found the desire for holy Orthodoxy, and she made the decision to become a Christian. The sacrament of Baptism was made over her by the Constantinople Patriarch Theophylactus. He instructed her in the truths of the Faith, the churchly rules and the rule of prayer; he explained the commands about fasting, chastity and charity.

Although she failed in her attempts to establish the Church hierarchy within Rus, she zealously devoted herself to efforts of Christian evangelization among the pagans, and also church construction. She built churches: of St. Nicholas and the church of the Holy Wisdom at Kiev, of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos at Vytebsk, and of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity at Pskov.

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HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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THE TRINITARIAN

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V. REV. ALEXANDER GARKLAVS, PASTOR

Divine Liturgy at 9:00 A.M.
Church School Every Sunday at 10:45 A.M.
(During the Months of September thru May)

Vespers - Every Saturday - 5:00 P.M.
Choir Rehearsals Every Thursday at 7:30 P.M.
Michael N. Pilat, Choir Director

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BULLETIN 37 - VOLUME LVIII

TONE 2

JULY 11, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Greatmartyr Euphemia the All-praised
Hieromartyr Cindeus the Presbyter, of Pamphylia
Bl. Olga, Princess of Rus'
The RZHEVSKAYA Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos
All Saints of Britain and Ireland

“For the sake of Christ your Bridegroom, you underwent struggles in both martyrdom and faith. Now intercede with the Mother of God that heresies and the insolent enemies of the Orthodox be placed underfoot. You received and guarded that which was defined by the six hundred and thirty God-bearing Fathers, all-praised Euphemia.”

Kontakion, Tone II

“Giving your mind the wings of divine understanding, you soared above visible creation seeking God the Creator of all. When you had found Him, you received rebirth through baptism. As one who enjoys the Tree of Life, you remain eternally incorrupt, ever-glorious Olga.”

Troparion, Tone I

TODAY'S EPISTLE: ROMANS 5:1-10

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:22-33

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Saturday, July 17

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers; Confessions

Daily Scripture Reading

Monday, July 12
Tuesday, July 13
Wednesday, July 14

Romans 9:18-33
Romans 10:11-11:2
Romans 11:2-12
Romans 11:13-24

Matthew 11:2-15
Matthew 11:16-20
Matthew 11:20-26
Matthew 11:27-30

Thursday, July 15
Friday, July 16
Saturday, July 17
(Passionbearers)

Galatians 1:11-19
Romans 11:25-36
Romans 6:11-17
Romans 8:28-39

John 10:1-9
Matthew 12:1-8
Matthew 8:14-23
John 15:17-16:2

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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COMING EVENTS

JULY:

19, Monday	9:00-noon	Drop-off for Rummage Sale
22, Thursday	9:00-noon	Drop-off for Rummage Sale
26, Monday		Cooking for St. Herman's House
29-30	9:00-5:00	Rummage / Bake Sale
31, Saturday	9:00-2:00	Rummage / Bake Sale

NORTH AMERICAN SAINTS:

We have available a booklet called, "The Lives of the North American Saints." This is a recent publication of the Cleveland Deanery of our Midwest Diocese, which was prepared for and to be presented at last year's celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America. The Covid pandemic made that impossible and delayed the distribution of this informative publication. Please take one per family.

SPECIAL COLLECTION:

This summer an intern is working at St. Herman's House of Hospitality, as part of such programs sponsored by FOCUS North America. One of the intern's projects is to collect funds which will be used to make backpacks with school supplies for children in the city. We have been asked to raise \$600, which will be passed on to the intern to coordinate the backpack program. Please use the "Special Collection" basket in the rear of the church, and if donating by check, make it out to "Holy Trinity Orthodox Church."

PARKING LOT VOLUNTEERS:

St. Pokrova Church will have their annual festival on August 6, 7 and 8; and they will be using our parking lot for their guests. We will need parking lot attendants throughout the weekend. If you are willing to help, please see Fr. Alexander or Mark Karpowicz.

BAPTISM:

Zackary Bellack will be baptized on Sunday, July 18, at noon.

RUMMAGE SALE / FOOD SALE:

HTOC will hold a Rummage and Food Sale Thursday, July 29, 9:00-5:00; Friday, July 30, 9:00-5:00; and Saturday, July 31, 9:00-2:00.

NO clothing, shoes, or large furniture pieces, please. Items can be brought before or after the church services on Sat. and Sun. July 17 & 18; and on Sat. and Sun. July 24 & 25. Also, you can bring things on Monday, July 19, or Thursday, July 22, from 9:00 until noon. Your items should be put on the stage in the east section of the Fellowship Hall.

A sign-up sheet for volunteers is in the church vestibule. For a successful sale, many "hands" are needed. Please indicate your availability and interest (Sales, Set-up, Food Serving, Bakery Items to Donate, and Clean-up). All ages and talents are welcome.

CEMETERY LOTS:

Sts. Peter and Paul Church has a parish-owned section (41) in Sunset Memorial Cemetery in North Olmsted. Single and double graves are available; prices vary. Contact Carolyn Carson: cfcarson@wowway.com or leave a message at 440-734-6260.

LAKEWOOD HOME:

The parish house of Sts. Peter and Paul Church will soon be vacant and they are looking for an Orthodox family/couple/single interested in living in Lakewood. Contact Barb Shkilevich for information: 330-239-1388; or bjshk@aol.com

TRINITARIAN COVERS:

The covers today are offered by Jewelann Stefanar.

The material objects to which we attach ourselves in our hearts,
those things that we passionately desire or grudge others,
kill the soul by withdrawing it from God, the Source of life.
The heart should always be in the Lord, God,
Who is the Author of all the existence of all creatures,
of organic vegetable and animal life of all the worlds, both great and small.
St. John of Kronstadt

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

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THE SAINTS AMONG US – ST. ANDREW OF CRETE & ST. ANDREW RUBLEV

Last Sunday, July 4, was the day on which two special saints, both named “Andrew,” were commemorated. I didn’t write about them last week because it was also the 4th of July and the Sunday of the American Saints, which was a more important occurrence. But both Saint “Andrews” are very special; and even more special is that both of them are included among the icons on the walls of our church, and giving them some attention here is appropriate.

St. Andrew of Crete was born in Damascus around 650 AD. As a young man he entered the famous Monastery of St. Sabbas near Jerusalem. After becoming an assistant to the Patriarch of Jerusalem, he was made Archdeacon and was sent as representative to the Sixth Ecumenical Council in Constantinople (680). Impressing the Imperial Court, he became the Archdeacon in the great Hagia Sophia cathedral. A man of learning and leadership, he became Bishop of Crete. He died on July 4 around 730.

As a theologian and bishop he would be remembered as an interesting footnote by scholars of church history. But his name is enshrined and honored because he is one of the great Christian poets and hymnographers. A good amount of the liturgical hymns that he created are still utilized in current Orthodox worship. But his most notable work is the “Great Canon” that is a key liturgical element of Great Lent. The Great Canon is truly “great” in its breadth and content. In some 250 tropars (or stanzas), St. Andrew draws upon various Biblical images which function to take the pious worshipper on an extended spiritual survey of introspection into one’s heart and soul. Four separate sections of the Great Canon are chanted on the first four days of Great Lent, setting the perfect stage for the penitential journey ahead. It is also chanted in full on the Thursday of the 5th Week of Lent.

St. Andrew Rublev lived in central Russia during a time of religious and political development. This was the “high medieval” period, the end of the 14th and beginning of the 15th centuries. We know very little about his personal life, where he was born, his parents, etc. Historians approximate his life between 1360 and 1430. He may have been a monk even from a young age. Having artistic skills, he apprenticed under a gifted iconographer, Theophanes the Greek. Together they painted icons in the Annunciation Cathedral in the Moscow Kremlin. St. Andrew developed his own techniques and style and came to the Trinity Monastery founded by St. Sergius of Radonezh. There he was commissioned to paint icons in the newly built cathedral which was erected in memory of the recently-departed St. Sergius. It was at the Trinity Monastery that he painted what is his most famous icon, the Holy Trinity depicted as the three angels who appeared to Abraham. This icon is a masterpiece of world art and one of the greatest of religious paintings ever made. Our parish is blessed to have several copies that are variations of Rublev’s Trinity.

Both Saints are in the row of medallions on the right side, over the area where our choir now sings.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus